

IBRARY COMMISSION (5115)

General Library Services (01)

Services to state agencies were greatly increased. Six agencies now have agreements for library service, and a seventh is receiving assistance in the cataloging of their collection. A workshop for state employees was held in cooperation with the Energy Research Coordinator to acquaint the participants with energy-related research and reference material offered by the State Library. A photocopy of the table of contents of journals received by the State Library is sent to state agencies as each new issue is received. Employees may then request a copy of any article which interests them. Reference and inter-library loan service to state personnel has doubled in the past year.

Library Development

Library federations were strengthened. Seven grants from federal funds were made to assist in providing better service to areas without library service or with inadequate library service. One grant was made for library construction. Legislation was passed to allow a vote for funding of state aid to federation libraries at the November, 1976, election.

Library Networks Program (02)

Procedures initiated to allow library federation headquarters to call member libraries for requests and forward them by TWX. State Library staff participated in WICHE network planning meetings. Workshops on interlibrary cooperation held for coordinators of federations, school, special and academic librarians.

Institutional Library Services (03)

Contracts were made with seven public libraries to extend library service to state institutions within their areas. Branch libraries staffed by State Library personnel have been established at Boulder River School and Hospital, Montana State Prison and Warm Springs State Hospital. Library service is also extended to Galen State Hospital and Mountain View School.

Library Service to Physically Handicapped (04)

Large increase in services to include 4,440 readers, 2,050 of whom were served by deposit collections in rest homes, hospitals, institutions, schools and public libraries. Workshops were held to help in identification of those eligible for services and assistance was given in how to provide services.

Administration of Library Programs (05)

Publication of Montana Library Directory and the public library statistics. Changes were made in reporting procedures at both state and local levels to comply with recommendations made by federal auditors after the audit of the administration of Library Services and Construction Act funds.